

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 7th March 1903.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

269. Russia's proposal to Great Britain that there should be direct communication between herself and Afghanistan furnishes, says the *Bengalee*, another instance of her colossal pertinacity. Some years back she made the same proposal to the late Amir, who referred the question to the Government of India, and the matter dropped. But Abdur Rahman's death has emboldened her to make another attempt, and if she does not gain her object this time, she at least hopes to secure some valuable concessions elsewhere.

BENGALÉE,
5th Mar. 1903.

270. While rejoicing at the successful way in which Lord Curzon's Government has overcome the Secretary of State's proposal that India should pay for the cost of entertaining the Indian Coronation guests in England, the *Indian Mirror*, on the other hand, views the fact of India having to meet the costs of exploiting Persia by the new Nushki route as most unjust. It says "England and Englishmen have planned out that route for reasons of their own, political and mercantile. The exploitation is purely English as against Russian from a different direction. But India pays the price. It is as of yore. Lord Curzon will raise his voice, but cannot always raise it successfully. And having knowledge of that fact, he is wise in holding his tongue."

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th Mar. 1903.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

271. In connection with this case, the *Bengalee* draws attention to the conduct of Babu Rash Behary Biswas, District Superintendent of Police, who, it is alleged, asked Messrs. Enos und Atherley, two witnesses on behalf of the plaintiff, Mr. Bartlett, to say that Dr. Mitra, the accused, was present in the riot, and on their refusing to give false evidence in Court, converted them from witnesses into accused.

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27th Feb. 1903.

It should be remembered, continues the *Bengalee*, that the complainant himself had but named them as witnesses to the investigating Sub-Inspector, and yet they were handcuffed and all the expense and humiliation of a criminal trial imposed upon them.

As their innocence has now been judicially declared, the *Bengalee* asks the Government to enquire into the circumstances of their arrest, and to let the public know what justification, if any, there was for the disgraceful conduct on the part of the Burdwan Police.

272. Besides the relegation of the witnesses, Messrs. Enos and Atherley, to the list of accused persons, there is, continues the same journal another procedure on the part of the District Superintendent, Babu Rash Behary Biswas, which is not less striking.

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28th Feb. 1903.

The charges laid before the local police were those of rioting and assault, both bailable offences, and the investigating Sub-Inspector reported the case in the prescribed A Form, charging the accused under sections 147, 325, and 426, and taking security for their appearance before the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Ranigunge. These proceedings of the local Police were confirmed by the Inspector of Ranigunge on a second investigation, but the District Superintendent of Police, irrespective of the charges laid by the plaintiff, ordered the accused to be sent up under sections 147, 330 and 452. The introduction of section 452 made the offence non-bailable, and led to the accused, Dr. Mitra, being subjected to the most humiliating and oppressive treatment. But what is most surprising, concludes the *Bengalee*, is that there was no such evidence forthcoming to warrant the introduction of the above section.

It asks the Government to institute a most searching enquiry.

273. Why sections 330 and 452, Indian Penal Code, were added to the charge against the accused, Dr. Mitra, by the District Superintendent of Police, Babu Rash Behary Biswas, seems unintelligible to the *Bengalee*. How could Dr. Mitra's going into the plaintiff's house after he was asked to do so by one of the plaintiff's friends

BENGALÉE,
1st Mar. 1903.

in order to receive the amount of his bills, be distorted into house trespass, and how could the act of receiving his dues after being asked to do so amount to extortion? Yet this is precisely what that worthy District Superintendent has charged him with.

The fact that three investigations were made on the complaint of Mr. Bartlett, an engine-driver on the East Indian Railway, the last being set on foot by Babu Rash Behary Biswas himself, seems equally inexplicable to the *Bengalee*. The accused in their petition to the Hon'ble High Court say that Asansol is an important Railway Station where a large body of Railway officials and employes live and command a considerable influence in the district. Can this be the reason why the Burdwan Police have evinced such unusual interest in the proceedings?

This, reiterates the *Bengalee*, in conclusion, is a case which should be subjected to the most careful examination by the Government.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
27th Feb. 1903

274. The *Amrita Basar Patrika* publishes the facts of both these cases and points out how perverse the verdict of the jury was in the former. Whence came the grave and sudden provocation for assaulting the deceased, Ali Husain, in such a way as to cause death? From the judgment it would appear that the Bench entirely disagreed with the finding of the jury, yet the accused Corbett was sentenced only to fourteen days' rigorous imprisonment when the law provides one month and a fine of Rs. 500! The result of this case should make every Englishman bow his head in sorrow and in pain!

The *Patrika* finds no flaw in the proceedings of the Silchar case, but remarks that the sumptuous treatment accorded the accused, Bain, in the Silchar Hotel when the Sessions Judges ordered his removal to the Silchar Jail certainly led people to think that there would at least have been some public demonstration in his honour!

BENGALUR,
28th Feb. 1903.

275. The *Bengalee* writes as follows:—

The Bain case.

"If the whiteman has his 'burden,' so has he his privileges. One of the latter is that when he is found guilty of causing the death of a poor Indian, he is either let off scot-free or is sentenced to simple imprisonment. In his case simple imprisonment means the enjoyment of the hospitality of the State in the most luxurious rooms of a hotel, where he is allowed to receive friends and entertain them too. When he leaves the hotel to go to the cutcherry or the jail, the Civil Surgeon places his own carriage at the disposal of this State guest and occasionally does himself the honour of accompanying him too. We are not drawing upon our imagination, but merely recording a fact which has already been published in scores of Indian newspapers. Mr. Bain, in his so-called imprisonment, may well exclaim—'O Penal Code! where is thy victory? O Imprisonment! where is thy sting?' And as for poor Lalsa, whom Mr. Bain had flogged to death, he was only a cooly, and death came to him as a welcome relief from this world of woes. This son-in-law-like treatment of European criminals affords a queer commentary upon the claims of Christianity as a living religion."

BENGALUR,
27th Feb. 1903.

276. The Chamber of Commerce, writes the *Bengalee*, has constantly been drawing the attention of Government to the delays in the disposal of cases in the Police Court.

Disposal of cases in the Police Court.

While agreeing with the causes mentioned by the Chamber, viz. the selfishness of the pleaders on both sides, who by a mutual understanding based on mutual advantage contrive to obtain as many adjournments as they can induce the Court to grant; the defective constitution of the Honorary Benches, and thirdly the inadequacy of the ministerial establishment, the *Bengalee* notices a fourth, and that is the practice of employing Police Inspectors to conduct important cases.

Mr. Mehta has drawn attention to this last as a fruitful source of delays, and it is to be hoped that the Commissioner of Police will exercise more discretion in future.

277. Referring to this case, in which the accused beat a cook in his employ for overstaying leave, in such a way as to cause death, the *Bengalee* reproduces portions of the judgment of Mr. Justice Hill, in which His Lordship points out the enormity of the offence and absence of all provocation, and while sounding a note of warning to all who are likely to commit the same violence, severely censures the accused for his gross cowardice.

BENGALIAN,
27th Feb. 1903.

But what is of the last importance to the *Bengalee* is how contemptibly the trying Judge seems to have viewed the perverse verdict returned by the Jury.

What have the Anglo-Indian Press, who consider native jurors unreliable, to say now?

278. India, thirty years ago, enjoyed unadulterated trial by jury, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, but Sir James Stephen, then Legal Member of Council, sounded its death-knell when, in 1872, District and Sessions Judges were empowered to submit cases in which they disagreed with the verdict of the Jury to the High Court. Although steps were taken to ensure that the power thus conferred would not be abused, nevertheless the procedure deeply affected Englishmen, who looked upon the system of Jury trial as one of the earliest traditions of their forefathers.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Mar. 1903.

On these grounds a Commission resolutely opposed the proposal contained in the Jury Notification of Sir Charles Elliott to exclude certain offences from the list triable by jury.

If Englishmen, concludes the *Patrika*, had as resolutely withstood the first encroachments, their birthright to-day would not be reduced to a mere shadow.

(d)—Education.

279. Indians, says the *Indian Mirror*, are very willing to have the "efficiency" that the Vice-Chancellor is crying out for, without bartering it for something else. They know that "efficiency" costs money and are willing to pay for it, but will not do so if it involves the prohibition of higher education for the poor student. No doubt the proposed "efficiency" will prove a beautiful toy for the sons of a few zemindars and rich men, but this is not what the common people want!

INDIAN MIRROR,
27th Feb. 1903.

Of course, concludes the *Mirror*, the people would be glad to have a teaching University, residential hostels, and fine laboratories, but why should the sacrifices that these entail be demanded only from the poorest of the poor? What has the Government ever spent on education in India? Let them not retrograde but advance in things educational!

280. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—

The pronouncement circular. "Bengal is now practically without a responsible head. The Officiating Lieutenant-Governor can have no heart in his work. He leaves us for good in a few months, and thus things are drifting here. The heads of departments have it all their own way, each trying to give effect to his own mad pranks and hobbies. There is nothing so shifting as pronouncement, and it is not very edifying to see the Bengal Government trying to build a house on so shifting a foundation. We hope the Government will yet see its way to modify the Circular or suspend its operation so as to give sufficient time for preparation and to enable the old grey-headed teachers to die out. In acting up to this suggestion, British prestige will not suffer in the least—the Delhi Darbar, has already impressed the world with the might and majesty of England's power. The Bengal Government is running wildly on in its mad pronouncement career. Will the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor throw up his hands and call upon it to check its speed?"

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
27th Feb. 1903.

281. The policy of the Education Commission of 1882, writes the *Bengalee*, was to promote the object of the Education Despatch of 1854, which sought (1) the extension of the means of acquiring general European knowledge, and (2) the encouragement of private effort. Now, can the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh conscientiously

BENGALIAN,
22th Feb. 1903.

maintain that the Universities Commission has sought merely to supplement the educational work of former Governments? Is the abolition of second grade colleges and existing law classes, the raising of college fees and the officialisation of the University in keeping with the above Education Despatch?

If it were possible for the authors of this blessed despatch to know how their successors were fulfilling the high destinies of England in India, they would turn in their graves with a sense of horror.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd Mar. 1903.

282. Referring to the recommendation of the Universities Commission to abolish the present Senate and appoint a new one consisting of 100 members, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*

The meeting of the Senate.

writes:—

"So it comes to this. The Senate, which is now a popular body, is proposed to be converted practically into an official one. This official body will elect an executive committee from among its own members, whose number must not exceed fifteen. The fate of all our colleges will rest absolutely in the hands of this handful of men. They will be authorized to appoint any man they like as a teacher, they will affiliate or disaffiliate any institution, or exempt any person from examination rules at their sweet will. Then, again, as they will not be the representatives of the people, it will be impossible for them to impart education in a way congenial to the wishes and sentiments of the nation. It cannot also be expected that they will feel the same keen interest in the well-being of the students as the guardians of the latter will do. Need Mr. Raleigh now wonder why the motion of Mr. Mitra was accepted by a vast majority of the Indian members present on the occasion?"

Regarding the charge brought against the Viceroy that the Universities Commission was no other than a plot to destroy higher education in India, the *Patrika* writes that if such a charge was made at all it was made by irresponsible newspaper writers who, keeping in view the newly constituted Calcutta Corporation, attributed foul motives to the Government in the present instance. But the *Patrika* asks the Viceroy to rise above such prattling and not to assume a hostile attitude towards a matter in which the nation is vitally concerned.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd Mar. 1903.

283. In spite of applications, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, recommended by the Principal, for closing the Bankipur College owing to the virulence of plague, the Director of Public Instruction has ruled that the University Examinations of the Patna Circle will be conducted in that town.

Does Mr. Pedler, asks the *Patrika*, understand the responsibility he is taking upon himself, and if he does not, will the authorities, in the name of humanity, transfer the centre to some other town which may be free from plague?

HINDOO PATRIOT,
2nd Mar. 1903.

284. The *Hindoo Patriot* regards the meeting of the Senate of the Calcutta University on Saturday last as eminently business-like and proving that that body is not so unwieldy

The Senate Debate.

or unprogressive.

It views with satisfaction that the Senators who represented the various communities all voted with Mr. R. Mitter's resolution, but expresses its displeasure at the announcement of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh that the present Senate is not fit to be trusted with large powers. It insists upon Mr. Raleigh giving his reasons for the statement. "Upon unspoken, unpublished and uncontradicted testimony like this, vague hints about which came out at the last possible moment, no British Court would condemn the basest of fellows," and Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji was therefore, in its opinion, right in protesting in the way he did.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA
4th Mar. 1903.

285. Criticising the pronunciation circular, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that America is an English-speaking country, and Americans, like the Bengalis, pronounce English

The Pronunciation Circular.

words incorrectly, but no attempt has been made to introduce a reform in this direction into their country, because there is no standard to judge the proper pronunciation of an English word, next, because there are no "mad officials," and above all because the people will not have it. The same may be said of Canada, Australia, Scotland and Ireland, and even in England itself a word

is pronounced one way in York and in another way in Middlesex, but no pronunciation circular is hurled at the English people! Why, then, should there be one in Bengal? It is just because the Bengalis are helpless and must, owing to an irresponsible Government, follow the whims of a whimsical man.

The circular is an insult to the intelligence of the people and to the common sense of the Government!

286. The *Bengalee* trusts that the authorities of educational institutions which have houses of ill-fame in their vicinity will in a body represent the matter to the Commissioner of Police, as their presence constitutes a standing menace to the morals of thousands of students who have to pass the infected localities daily.

BENGALUR,
5th Mar. 1903.

287. The *Bengalee* asserts that the Senate has no justification whatever for utilising the halls of the Presidency College and the Hindu and Hare Schools for conducting their University examinations, as it necessitates the above institutions being closed for close upon a month. What prevents the Senate from building an additional hall or extending their present accommodation? It is better that than to wrong a large number of students to the majority of whom this extra holiday is for obvious reasons most unwelcome.

BENGALUR,
5th Mar. 1903.

A propos what is of greater moment is the very unhealthy time of the year at which these examinations are held. Surely a practice which has already been prolific of dire results should not be adhered to?

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

288. Regarding the deputation made to Babu Kalinath Mitter asking him to stand as a candidate for the ward at the next Municipal election, the *Bengalee* is strongly of opinion that he could not with consistency and with self-respect join a Corporation which he resigned on account of its constitution. He and his colleagues declared before the world that they would have nothing to do with a Corporation whose object was to eliminate the Hindu element, and now to stand for election would stultify themselves, nullify their protest, and vitally injure national interests.

BENGALUR,
4th Mar. 1903.

289. The *Bengalee* deplores the tendency in some quarters to overlook the significance of the protest of twenty-eight Municipal Commissioners who resigned in a body some three years ago because they wanted to record in the most emphatic manner their hearty disapproval of the extinction of Local Self-Government in Calcutta.

BENGALUR,
5th Mar. 1903.

Further, can any self-respecting Hindu rejoin a Corporation expressly reconstituted with a view to keeping down the influence of his countrymen?

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

290. The opposition to the alignment of this railway *via* Santipur, writes the *Bengalee*, has not been offered by the people of Ula and its surroundings, but by Messrs. Miller and Company, who wish to monopolise all the inland trade of these parts. This Company have conferred great benefits on the people of the Province, but when the latter prefer a railway to a steamer service, it is for obvious reasons, viz., for convenience, cheapness and rapidity.

BENGALUR,
4th Mar. 1903.

Further, the extension will be a Government concern, and the earnings will presumably be devoted to the welfare of the people, and the assumption that these earnings will be high would not be a wrong one, considering the immense goods traffic carried on by the merchants of Santipur, who have assured the Presidency Commissioner that they are willing to give the whole of this traffic to the proposed broad-gauge railway "should it please the Government to give them one."

291. The *Bengalee* complains that Indian passengers who have to cross the river by the Port Commissioners' ferry when the Howrah Bridge is closed to traffic, are put to great inconvenience on account of the space in front of the landing-stage being

BENGALUR,
6th Mar. 1903.

reserved for Europeans and persons dressed in European clothing, so that any unwitting intruder is unceremoniously expelled.

No public notification has been put up on the spot, but the culprits are surreptitiously perpetrating this invidious and unwarrantable distinction to the annoyance of hundreds of Indian passengers who have not reached the "trousers and coat" sphere of civilisation. Are the Port Commissioners aware of all this?

(h)—General.

BENGALUR.
27th Feb. 1903.

292. Owing to the *Englishman's* vehement treatment of the suggestion that the British are "foreigners" in India, the *Bengalee* strives to compare the respective policies of Akbar and the British Government.

Are the British foreigners in India! The nation, writes this journal, is struggling for equality: the spread of education has led the sons of the soil to claim equal rights and privileges, but the Government of the country remains the same as it was fifty years back. But turn to Akbar, a foreigner of foreigners, the son of an exile, and with no associations which would appeal to the feelings of his Hindu subjects. How did he turn a rebellious community into strong and ardent supporters of his throne, Empire and successors? By transforming himself into one born of the soil is the reply, and when the Government will make the good of India and not the good of England their only concern, then and only then will the Britisher cease to be looked upon as a foreigner.

BENGALUR,
27th Feb. 1903.

293. The *Bengalee* hopes that Mr. Manson's successor will not be selected from outside the ranks of the Executive Service, as this appointment, like the Collectorship of Calcutta, has hitherto been given to a Deputy Magistrate.

The Office of Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery. As it would be a breach of faith, and as there is no paucity of able men, this journal cannot believe that Government is seriously contemplating depriving the Provincial Service of one of the few prize appointments it can boast of.

BENGALUR,
27th Feb. 1903.

294. The *Bengalee's* correspondent from Monirampur writes that as he was returning home in a carriage from the Barrackpur railway station, two highly intoxicated soldiers chased his carriage and freely belaboured his coach man and horses.

Drunken soldiers let loose after dusk. The matter, says the *Bengalee*, has been reported to the Officer Commanding at Barrackpore, and the culprits may yet be found out if that officer makes a prompt and earnest enquiry.

BENGALUR,
28th Feb. 1903.

295. Referring to the statement of some Anglo-Indian wiseacres that corruption is rife in the country because Indians have a sort of instinctive sympathy for criminals which prevents them from making any attempt to stamp out corruption in their midst, the *Bengalee* says that every Indian gentleman of education and position fights shy of such attempts, as their motives are sure to be misunderstood by the authorities.

The sympathy of the Indian for criminals. It proves what it says by referring to Dewan Bahadur Raghunath Rao's evidence before the Police Commission at Madura, and reminds these "Anglo-Indian wiseacres" of the several attempts made by "well-meaning fools" to prove to the Commissioners of Police that liquor shops, despite the law, were open till after 9 P.M.

BENGALUR,
1st Mar. 1903.

296. The British in India, writes the *Bengalee*, are like physical nature, because both seem to work on the two grand principles of Uniformity and Symmetry. The British have assumed for purposes of their own that Indians are people with abnormally developed spleens. Now anything which is unsymmetrical is jarring to their sense of aesthetics, so the whiteman is ready in his compassion to cause the disappearance of this anomaly which disfigures the otherwise beautiful face of nature. Depart therefore, blackman with the enlarged spleen from this world of woe to the Better land, says he!

White Jurymen, who have also a keen sense of aesthetics, see "simple hurt" where the uncultured black and sometimes also white Judges see murder! Then the white Judge reads homilies of courage and cowardice, but when the matter of sentence has to be considered, the white Judge passes sentence according to the finding of the white Jury! Short terms of imprisonment, in most cases "simple," are awarded to the whiteman, who has benevolently trotted an unsymmetrical black out of this world of famine, pestilence and chronic impecuniosity!

297. The Corbett case, in which the accused, although he caused the death of a cook in his employ, was found guilty of only "simple hurt," has led the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*

Spleen ruptures in India.

to wonder how a blow on the face resulted in rupture of the spleen, and secondly why only when a European strikes an Indian death invariably result from a rupture of the same organ! Indians commit assaults upon Indians which sometimes result in death, but a rupture of the spleen is never heard of on such occasions. What is there then mysterious in the touch of the European which is wanting in the Indian?

Let the Government, says the *Patrika*, inflict punishments which will produce a deterrent effect upon Europeans brutally inclined, and make them whose "simple hurt" has caused death provide for the families of the deceased, for then only will Government be able to stamp out this evil.

298. Agricultural Directors and Assistant Directors are leaving the Department in quick succession after the acquirement of some little experience, and on account of this

The Agricultural Department.

apathy on the part of the Government no progress is being made in agricultural matters, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

It hopes, at least, that the reorganization scheme of the late Director, Mr. Allen, who introduced several agricultural reforms during his short tenure of office, will receive the sanction of the Government of India, as this most important Department is sadly in need of men and money.

299. The *Bengalee*, relying on Lord Curzon's sense of justice, lays before His Excellency the case of Babu Kalla Chand

An appeal to Lord Curzon.

Banerji, a *Nazir* in the Khulna Collectorate, who was dismissed by the Commissioner of the Division because he merely suspected him of telling an untruth in connection with, what on enquiry, turned out to be a forged document. Both the Magistrate and the Sub-Judge declared that the document was genuine, and when the Commissioner suddenly questioned the *Nazir* as to its genuineness, the latter replied in the affirmative, as that was the opinion held by both his superior officers. For this the Commissioner dismissed him.

The *Bengalee* feels sure that the Viceroy will yet do justice to this unfortunate man who, in addition to his appointment, loses 16 years' service.

300. The unanimous vote of £70,000, writes the *Bengalee*, by the House of

Melancholy meanness abandoned at last.

Commons for the defrayal of the cost of entertaining the Indian Coronation guests and troops, and of the miniature Durbar held at the India Office for the special delectation of the Secretary of State, is practically an unanimous condemnation of this statesman's "melancholy meanness" in wishing to saddle India with the cost.

It hopes that the House will approach every Indian question that may draw its attention with the earnest determination to do justice to India, which has animated its conduct in the present instance.

301. On the appointment of Mr. A. P. Handley as a Judge of the High Court, the *Bengalee* hears Mr. Bonnaud is to be made

Injustice to the Provincial Service.

a Judge of the Small Cause Court. The claims of Babu Lal Gopal Sen of the Provincial Service have thus been set aside. Then, Mr. Thomas of the Police is to be the next Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery, while Mr. Bayley remains likely candidate for the Collectorship of Calcutta.

What have the members of the Provincial Service done to be overlooked like this?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Mar. 1903.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Mar. 1903.

BENGALIN,
3rd Mar. 1903.

BENGALIN,
3rd Mar. 1903.

BENGALIN,
6th Mar. 1903.

BENGALER,
6th Mar. 1903.

302. The utterances of Government, writes the *Bengalee*, are all for protecting the indigenous industries, but the actions of Government are quite the contrary. How often has it not been shown that the currency policy is having a disastrous affect on agriculture, tea, cotton and several other important Indian industries, but a prolonged silence has been the only response.

At all events, continues the *Bengalee*, this is done under the cloak of philanthropy, but the Burma Government has openly declared its intention of prohibiting the local manufacture of salt! Since the Government of India are merely looking on, it must always be remembered in connection with Lord Curzon that he encouraged and protected the indigenous industries!

BENGALER,
6th Mar. 1903.

303. Referring to the notification that the honorary rank of Captain will be conferred on all Risaldar-Majors and Subadar-Majors of the first class order of British India, and of Lieutenant on all other Native Officers in possession of a similar decoration on retirement, the *Bengalee* remarks that these titles are useless to the holder when once he is out of service for he cannot then enjoy the material advantage they secure.

It is like offering a "toothless man a plate of dried peas."

III.—LEGISLATION.

INDIAN MIRROR,
27th Feb. 1903.

304. The *Indian Mirror*, in congratulating the Bengal Legislative Council on the passing of the "Barmaids' Bill," says that the new Act does not fight the question to a finish, for although women cease to be barmaids, they can be employed as musicians, etc., when the old order of things will again be established. But here comes in the responsibility of the European constabulary, who can frustrate the successful operation of the Act or make it as far-reaching as it is no doubt intended to be.

If the Act, says the *Mirror* in one accord with its contemporary the *Englishman*, is intended to be a crusade against drink, again it is deficient. There can be no combating the evil with "frock-coat, silk-hat and kid-glove," the smiting must be done with bare fist and naked sword." Let, therefore, licenses be withdrawn from such localities as sailors and soldiers are accustomed to frequent, and these localities it is well-known are abundant enough, but in this case the Government must be prepared to forego a large portion of its excise revenue.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

RAIS AND RAIYAT,
28th Feb. 1903.

305. The points which the *Reis and Raiyat* deals with at some length in an article under this heading, are the amelioration of the interior of the city and the employment of foreign capital to the exclusion of native.

Firstly, the improvement of the city interior has been partial to a degree, for the Native quarters remain in as deplorable a condition as they ever were. The "improved" Municipality has in no way come up to the expectations of the people, and it is giving no evidence of work of increased excellence.

As much as this journal recognises the benefits foreign capital has conferred upon India, the one drawback it says that attends its employment, is the gradual impoverishment of the country, for the profits are spent in a foreign land and do not benefit India. What it therefore suggests, is that Government should encourage the investment of native capital by providing facilities for native industry, for trade, like education, cannot grow without State aid.

But, asks the *Reis and Raiyat*, where is the society that protects Indian interests? Those that do exist are in a moribund state like the Indian National Congress. When Indians have their own associations worthy of general trust, then and only then will Government be bound to recognise them.

306. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes:—

HINDOO PATRIOT,
28th Feb. 1903.

The Victoria Memorial Hall.

"The Note published by the Building Committee has removed our objections to the site. The note makes it clear that, though other sites are feasible, none can compare with that between the Lawrence Statue and the Fort. One has only to read the Committee's Note carefully to be quite convinced of this. It

must not be forgotten that the one and sole idea of the Memorial is to keep the memory of our beloved Empress ever fresh. Calcutta must no longer display a contentious spirit in discussing the question of site. When the snow-white fabric rears its glistening walls of marble to the steady glare of an Oriental sun, when Calcutta in her thousands wanders day by day with rapt attention and reverent gaze through the spacious halls and corridors of a glorious and lasting land-mark raised to the revered memory of an Empress-Queen and Mother, then we shall understand the far-seeing wisdom of the Viceroy, and though he may be far away from Government House, yet we shall not forget that he, in his heart, chose one site only."

307. The *Indian Mirror* denies in toto all three statements that the Victoria Memorial Hall. Victoria Memorial affair has nothing to do with the Indian community, that it is wholly an European concern, and that the Native Press has injured Indian interests with the Viceroy by joining the European opposition.

INDIAN MIRROR,
1st Feb. 1903.

It contends that the opposition was just and legitimate and therefore deserved hearty support. The *maidan* is the solitary glory of Calcutta, and when once the Victoria Memorial rises before the public gaze, there would be no bar for the erection of a Curzon Memorial in the neighbourhood, so that it is an affair in common between Europeans and Indians alike.

The *Mirror* has too high an opinion of Lord Curzon to believe that the opposition offered to the chosen site will in any way alienate His Excellency from the Indian Community.

308. Every estimate, says the *Bengalee*, includes the cost of the land on which the building is to be erected, but in the case of the Victoria Memorial, no such provision has been made. Lord Curzon has played many a part and achieved many a success, but no one for a moment suspected His Excellency of being able to build a castle in the air. The Public Works Department it cannot be doubted, has erected many a building as substantial, but even they have not been able to get over the cost of the land! But perhaps the Committee have obtained the site free of cost? The *maidan* belongs to the public of Calcutta and they have every right to be heard in the matter.

BENGALÉE,
4th Mar. 1903.

309. Assuming that Lord Curzon is correct and that the hoarded wealth of India does amount to 825 crores of rupees, how is it possible to exhume this scattered wealth and build up a workable capital, asks the *Bengalee*? His Excellency has said that if the man on the spot does not cultivate with his own spade he cannot blame the outsider who comes with his plough. In reply, the *Bengalee* again repeats, that it is the fault of Government for declining to concede to Indians legitimate rights of citizenship. It is true that the industrial and mercantile world is one great field for the tiller to till, but is the Indian equipped? Read the curriculum of technical and agricultural education in England and then notice how many of the subjects are taught under State patronage in India, where the necessity for teaching them is admittedly far greater.

BENGALÉE,
25th Feb. 1903.

India is pre-eminently an agricultural country with a rural population of 180 millions, and the agricultural grant does not exceed 10 lakhs a year; whereas the Danish Government give three times more to a population of only 2½ millions.

Under a Government such as Lord George Hamilton's, the *Bengalee* does not wonder that the development of the moral and material condition of the people is slow?

310. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Mr. Phipps's donation of £30,000 was intended solely for the benefit of the people of India, but was this intention given effect to when a portion of the money was devoted to the Pasteur Institute? That Indians have no interest in this institution is well known, so that any pecuniary assistance in that direction can in no way benefit them.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Mar. 1903.

Then as regards agricultural researches. They must confine themselves to Bengal, where an intelligent peasantry exist, and above all the work must be entrusted to Indian hands; for officials can have no abiding interest in the land.

His Excellency, concludes the article, cannot do better than by consulting some leading Indians on the subject.

BENGALUR,
3rd Mar. 1903.

311. Referring to an article in *Truth* relating how seriously the susceptibilities of the Muhammadans were outraged by a party of Viceregal guests consuming ham sandwiches in the Jumma Masjid, the *Bengalee* writes:—

Ham sandwiches in the Jumma Masjid.

"We need offer only one comment upon the above. If the facts are incorrectly stated, Lord Curzon and the Government of India are only to blame. We hear on good authority that a leading Calcutta journalist invited a communique on the subject, and that his request was permitted to remain without a reply. The policy of *sanjaasing* the Press may have its advantages, but it does not prevent the accumulation of a dangerous under-current of feeling. It is far better to be frank and open, and to treat the public to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Why was it not done in this case?"

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th Mar. 1903.

312. The distribution of money to the poor and indigent of Calcutta on Tuesday last shows, says the *Indian Mirror*, how well some matters can be managed when left to the people. There was no hitch of any description, and every beggar present went away blessing his newly-crowned sovereign.

But the *Mirror* asks Mr. Greer, to whom the success of the function was due, not to forget the truly indigent who, on account of their excessive infirmity, found it impossible to attend. There is still a large surplus over, and if it were devoted to these pitiable souls, it would be the most worthy use to which the money could be put.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 7th March 1903.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.